

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE SARL YL SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON AND THE YOUTH SPRINT TOMORROW

THE RAE ON SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

and

THE SARL HF DIGITAL CONTEST ON 16 AUGUST

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE SARL YL SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON AND THE YOUTH SPRINT TOMORROW

The aim of the YL Sprint is to contact as many Young Ladies in South Africa as possible. The second leg of the SARL YL Sprint takes place today from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC and it is a CW and phone sprint on the 40 meter band. The exchange is an RS or RST Report and YL or YM. QSOs between YL stations are worth 5 points, QSOs between YL and YM stations are worth 3 points and QSOs between YM stations are worth 1 point. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet or make use of the downloadable MS Excel log sheet. Logs must be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 16 August to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za

The aim of the YOUTH Sprint is to contact as many Young Radio Amateurs in South Africa as possible, that means radio amateurs 25 years and younger. The second leg of the SARL Youth Sprint takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Monday 10 August and it is a CW and phone sprint on the 40 meter band. The exchange is a RS or RST Report and the operator's age. QSOs between stations in the age group 25 and younger are worth 5 points, QSOs between stations in the under 25 group and over 26 group is worth 2 points and QSOs between stations in the age group 26 and older are worth 1 point. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet or make use of the downloadable MS Excel log sheet. Logs must be sent to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 16 August.

You are welcome to invite young people to your radio room to participate under your supervision. Find the rules on pages 55 and 56 of the 2020 Blue Book.

THE RAE ON SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

The May RAE, which was postponed because of the virus pandemic, will now take place on Saturday 29 August at various exam centres around the country. Candidates and the invigilators are requested to adhere to the relevant health regulations in place. Candidates, please take note that you are writing the RAE at your own risk. Use the next three weeks to go through all the learning material and also get that HF assessment done before the exam.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

LOGS FOR THE SARL HF PHONE CONTEST

At the time of writing this bulletin, 21 logs had already been received for the HF Phone Contest held on Sunday 2 August. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet, or make use of the downloadable MS Excel log sheet. The log must be sent to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 9 August, which is tonight!

THE SARL HF DIGITAL CONTEST ON 16 AUGUST

The second leg of the SARL HF Contests takes to the air from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC next Sunday 16 August. It is the HF Digital Contest with activity on 20, 40 and 80 meters. You may use any digital mode during the contest and the exchange is an RSQ report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001.

Each QSO counts 1 point, with 2 points for each call area worked per band and 2 points for each station worked on all three bands. Trophies are awarded to the first place and the highest single band score in this contest. Turn to page 35 of the 2020 Blue Book for the rules.

THE PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There is a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration visible. No major flaring activity is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 20 and 30 m bands will, especially around sunset, provide some DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

The following items were received after the Thursday deadline

AMSAT SA SPACE SYMPOSIUM NOW AVAILABLE

The full programme for the AMSAT SA space symposium to be held on Saturday 22 August is now available. There are two exciting presentation by AMSAT NA's Bruns Fisher WB1FJ: Current amateur radio communication satellites and Fox-in-a-Box - An inexpensive telemetry ground station. Ton van den Bon, ZR6TG will speak about the SatNOGS opensource ground station and network. Hannes

Coetzee, ZS6BZP will discuss Qatar OSCAR 100 - the world's first amateur radio geostationary satellite. Gary Immelman, ZS6YI will do a presentation on OQ-100 and Digital Amateur Television and demonstrate the HD TV activity on the satellite. The AfriCUBE team will share their exiting journey with AfriCUBE and the experience with the development of the Raspberry Pi digital transponder- and onboard-controller. Book now. Programme and registration form are available on www.amsatsa.org.za or send an email to admin@amsatsa.org.za with symposium in the subject line and the programme and form will be mailed to you.

WRC-23 - THE SARL MAKE AN EARLY START

Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV attended several online meetings in preparation for the World Radio Conference 2023, commonly referred to WRC-23. On 30 July, the Industry WRC-23 National Preparatory Workgroup (NPWG 23) met to discuss the various agenda items and determine priorities. ZS6AKV and ZS6YZ are responsible for developing South Africa position on agenda item 9.1b which deal with review of the 1 240 – 1 300 MHz band where amateur radio has a secondary allocation. ZS6YZ also attended the ATU WRC meeting held this past week.

Earlier this week the SARL WRC team had a discussion with the South African National Space Agency who are the responsible rapporteur for agenda items 1.14 and 9.1a where amateur radio has a primary allocation of 248- 250 GHz. The SARL has now been added as an interested group.

The question is often asked why the SARL shows an interest in such very high frequencies? There may not be any amateur activity in these bands at this time or even planned but there may be a future requirement and if we do not stake our claim, it may just be taken that radio amateurs have no interest. Remember that not long ago 2 m and 70 cm were foreign territory, now we operate satellite in the 10 GHz band.

Finally, a Diary of some upcoming events:

This afternoon - The SARL YL Sprint and submit your log for the HF Phone Contest by 23:59 CAT

10 August – A public holiday and the SARL Youth Sprint

12 August – International Youth Day

12 to 13 August - Perseids meteor shower

15 August – The SARL 95 40 m Club Sprint and Victory in the Pacific Day

16 August – The SARL HF Digital Contest

22 August – The AMSAT SA Virtual Space Symposium and the AGM of the Namibian Amateur Radio League

22 and 23 August – The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

29 and 30 August – The SARL HAMNET Winter Exercise

30 August – The SARL HF CW Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main story:

The second leg of the SARL YL Sprint takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC this afternoon and it is a CW and phone sprint on the 40 meter band. The second leg of the SARL Youth Sprint takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Monday 10 August and it is a CW and phone sprint on the 40 meter band. Find the rules on pages 55 and 56 of the 2020 Blue Book.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.